

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 EB-11 TRSE-00

OMB-01 SSO-00 DRC-01 /099 W

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R 171740Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4651

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT IC

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC POLITICAL SITUATION - INDEPENDENCE

PARTY CHAIRMAN SEEKS ALL-PARTY APPROACH TO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

1. IN FIRST MAJOR PUBLIC MOVE SINCE GETTING MANDATE TO TRY TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT, INDEPENDENCE PARTY CHAIRMAN GEIR HALLGRIMSSON HAS CALLED FOR AN ALL-PARTY EFFORT TO SOLVE ICELAND'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. PROPOSAL WAS CONTAINED IN LETTER SENT TO OTHER PARTY LEADERS JULY 16. HALLGRIMSSON ALSO FURNISHED HIS COUNTERPARTY WITH RESULTS OF ECONOMIC SURVEY HE RECENTLY ORDERED AND, BASED ON THAT AND OTHER DATA, INVITED THEM TO MEET TOGETHER TO SEEK WIDEST POSSIBLE CONSENSUS FOR TACKLING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. ALL PARTIES, EXCEPT OLL, WERE REPORTEDLY MEETING TODAY

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TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL.

2. IN LETTER, HALLGRIMSSON DOES NOT DISCUSS DIRECTLY QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT FORMATION AND HE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT WHILE CONOMY IS ICELAND'S MOST PRESSING CONCERN, PARTIES WILL HAVE TO RESOLVE OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS (IE, DEFENSE ISSUE) BEFORE THEY COULD COOPERATE IN COALITION.

3. COMMENT: BY APPEALING IMPARTIALLY TO ALL PARTIES, HALLGRIMSSON LEAVES OPEN ALL POSSIBLE COALITION COMBINATIONS INCLUDING -- CONCEIVABLY -- AN ALL-PARTY ONE. HIS MOVE IS ALSO CONSISTENT WITH IP APPROACH SINCE ELECTION OF DOWNPLAYING DEFENSE ISSUE, WHICH IS MAJOR OBSTACLE TO FORMING IP-LED GOVERNMENT, IF FAVOR OF ECONOMIC MATTERS. STILL, PREVAILING ESTIMATE IS THAT HALLGRIMSSON WILL NOT RPT NOT SUCCEED IN THIS FIRST ROUND.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

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